

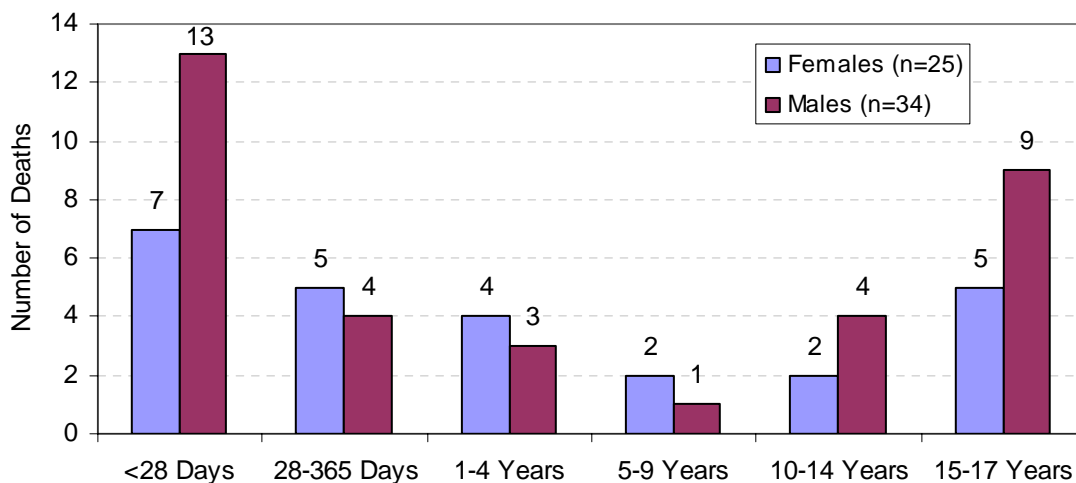


2006 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR COCONINO AND YAVAPAI COUNTIES

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Coconino or Yavapai Counties. During 2006, there was a total of 59 deaths among children younger than 18 years of age in the counties of Coconino (n=26) and Yavapai (n=33). Males accounted for 58 percent of child deaths in these counties (n=34) and females accounted for 42 percent (n=25). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by gender and age group.

Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Gender and Age Group, Coconino and Yavapai Counties, Arizona 2006 (n=59)



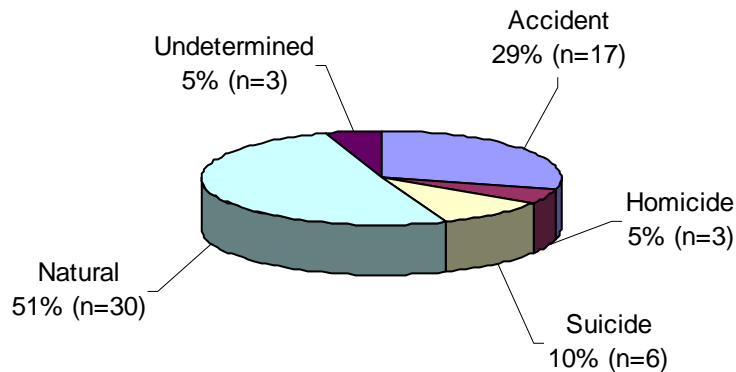
Deaths were over-represented among American Indian and Hispanic children in these counties. American Indian children comprised 21 percent of the population in these counties but 24 percent of the fatalities (n=14), and Hispanic children comprised 17

percent of the population but 25 percent of the fatalities (n=15). Non-Hispanic White children comprised 59 percent of the population but 49 percent of the fatalities (n=29). The remaining deaths were among other races/ethnicities (two percent, n=1).

CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Fifty-one percent of deaths were classified as natural (n=30); 29 percent were due to accidents (n=17); ten percent were due to suicides (n=6); five percent were due to homicides (n=3); and five percent were of undetermined manner (n=3). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

**Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner,
Coconino and Yavapai Counties,
Arizona 2006 (n=59)**



There were 30 child deaths classified as natural, including 21 from medical causes and nine from prematurity. Twelve children died in motor vehicle crashes, and three children committed suicide by hanging. There were two drowning fatalities. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner, Coconino and Yavapai Counties, Arizona 2006 (n=59)						
Cause	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Natural	Undetermined	Total
Medical*				21		21
Motor vehicle crash	12					12
Prematurity				9		9
Other injury	1	2			2	5
Hanging			3			3
Drowning	2					2
Firearm			2			2
Suffocation/strangulation	1					1
Fire/burn	1					1
Blunt force trauma		1				1
Poisoning			1			1
Undetermined					1	1
Total	17	3	6	30	3	59
*Excluding prematurity						

Among the 12 motor vehicle crash deaths, two children were driving, eight children were passengers, and two children were pedestrians. Of the eight vehicle passengers who died in crashes, two were in back seats, two were in front seats, and one was killed while riding in a truck bed. For three children, the locations in the vehicle were unknown.

PREVENTABILITY

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caretaker or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 49 percent of the deaths among Coconino County and Yavapai County children could have been prevented (n=29).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team might have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In Coconino and Yavapai Counties, drugs and/or alcohol was a contributing factor for eight child deaths (14 percent), and unsafe infant sleep environments was a contributing factor for seven deaths (12 percent). Lack of vehicle restraints contributed to six deaths (ten percent), and lack of supervision contributed to five deaths (eight percent). More than one factor may have been identified for each death. Table 2 shows the most

common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of Coconino and Yavapai Counties.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Coconino and Yavapai Counties, Arizona 2006		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Drugs/alcohol	8	14%
Unsafe infant sleep environment	7	12%
Lack of vehicle restraint	6	10%
Lack of supervision	5	8%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN COCONINO AND YAVAPAI COUNTIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Coconino and Yavapai Counties and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. During 2006, 59 children who were residents of Coconino or Yavapai Counties died, and 1,031 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Coconino and Yavapai Counties had a larger percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties. Nearly half of the deaths of Coconino County and Yavapai County children could have been prevented (49 percent, n=29), compared to slightly more than one-third of child deaths in the remaining counties (37 percent, n=382).

Medical conditions were the leading cause of child deaths in Coconino and Yavapai Counties (38 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (39 percent). Prematurity only accounted for two percent of deaths in Coconino and Yavapai Counties but was the second leading cause of death for the rest of Arizona. Motor vehicle crashes accounted for 31 percent of deaths in Coconino and Yavapai Counties but only 12 percent in the remaining counties. Table 3 shows the leading causes of child deaths for Coconino and Yavapai counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Coconino and Yavapai Counties, Arizona 2006			
Coconino and Yavapai Counties (n=59)		Arizona, Excluding Coconino and Yavapai Counties (n=1,031)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	38%	Medical	39%
Motor vehicle crash	31%	Prematurity	27%
Other injury	31%	Motor vehicle crash	12%

Natural deaths accounted for the largest percentage of child deaths in Coconino and Yavapai Counties (51 percent), as well as for the remainder of Arizona (66 percent). There were larger percentages of accidents and suicides in Coconino and Yavapai Counties, compared to the rest of the state. Accidents accounted for 29 percent of child deaths in Coconino and Yavapai Counties, and 21 percent in the remaining counties. Suicides accounted for ten percent of the deaths in Coconino and Yavapai Counties and four percent in the rest of the state. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Coconino and Yavapai Counties compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Coconino and Yavapai Counties, Arizona 2006			
Coconino and Yavapai Counties (n=59)		Arizona, excluding Coconino and Yavapai Counties (n=1,031)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	51%	Natural	66%
Accident	29%	Accident	21%
Suicide	10%	Homicide	6%
Homicide	5%	Suicide	4%
Undetermined	5%	Undetermined	3%